

Ashland Watershed Update

A publication of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

Field Trips

Join a field trip to learn about AFR work, Ashland forests, and monitoring in the watershed. To register, contact Chris at 541-552-2066 or chris.chambers@ashland.or.us

We're on Facebook!

Learn about the work we're doing, areas to avoid while recreating in the watershed, and what to expect this summer and fall by "liking" us on Facebook. Visit facebook.com/AFR.Project and select "like" to receive our updates.

AFR E-mail List

Keep up to date on what is going on in the watershed by visiting www.ashlandwatershed.org and signing up on our e-mail list. Click on the "NOTIFY ME BY E-MAIL" link on the left menu to register, or contact Chris at 541-552-2066 or chris.chambers@ashland.or.us

AFR Work Update Fall/Winter 2013/2014

Funded through 2013 by \$6.2 million in Economic Recovery Act Funds, the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project has done important fire safety and forest restoration work in the Ashland Watershed since 2010. These accomplishments include:

- 3700 acres of fuels reduction and forest restoration, about half of the project
- 17 full-time equivalent jobs sustained over three years
- Over 150 local workers employed during ecological workforce training
- \$830,000 in non-federal money contributed by AFR non-federal partners
- Restoration by-products (logs) delivered to local mills, creating local jobs and returning dollars to the project for further work
- Completed 340 acres supported by TNC Fire Learning Network's *Scaling up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency* program, expanding AFR work onto adjacent private and City land to better protect homes and the watershed

Roughly \$4 million is needed to complete the 7,600 acre AFR project. The Ashland City Council allocated \$350,000 in 2014/2015 to move AFR ahead and protect the City and its water supply. In addition, the project received \$150,000 from the Forest Service's Forest Health Protection and Hazardous Fuels programs to accomplish thinning around large, old "legacy" trees and reduce fire danger along roads throughout the Ashland Watershed.



Monitoring and Adapting our Work

Protection of soil, wildlife habitat, and water quality is a high priority. This past summer and fall, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) coordinated multiparty monitoring with Forest Service scientists, community volunteers, SOU students, and City of Ashland personnel to evaluate project operations. For the third consecutive year, SOU students collected macro-invertebrates ("water bugs") as indicators of water quality. In addition, soils monitoring showed that using tree limbs and tops to rehabilitate skid trails mitigated 95.8% of bare soil, greatly exceeding the 60% requirement. Data collected on tree shading demonstrated that AFR partners were successful at balancing the conservation of Northern Spotted Owl habitat with fuels reduction. TNC also established a network of monitoring stations in which they mapped and measured 154 ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, sugar pine, pacific madrone, and black oaks to evaluate how treatments affect large old trees over time.





Ashland's forested landscape
© Sean Bagshaw

More info about the partners on the Web:

www.ashlandwatershed.org

www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou

www.nature.org/oregon

www.lomakatsi.org

www.ashland.or.us

You are also welcome to contact:

Chris Chambers
Forestry Division Chief
City of Ashland
(541) 552-2066
chris.chambers@ashland.or.us

Darren Borgias
Program Director
The Nature Conservancy
(541) 770-7933 ext 1#
dborgias@tnc.org

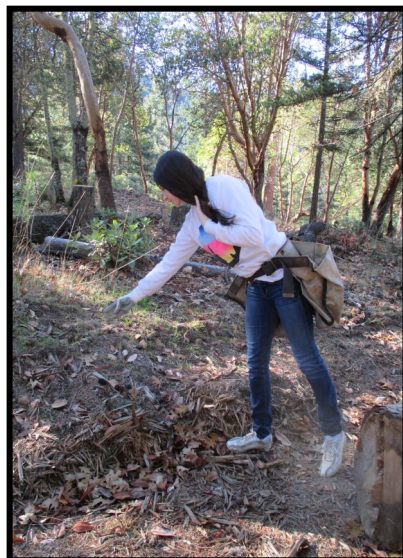
Donna Mickley
Siskiyou Mountains
District Ranger
US Forest Service
(541) 552-2900
dmickley@fs.fed.us

Marko Bey
Lomakatsi Restoration
Executive Director
541-488-0208
marko@lomakatsi.org

Supporting Our Next Generation of Ecosystem Stewards

This summer, Lomakatsi employed 20 selected high school students from Ashland and Medford School Districts to participate in the Ashland Watershed Youth Training and Employment Program.

Lomakatsi provided local youth with educational experience in ecosystem restoration through hands-on workforce training and employment designed to inspire exploration and interest in natural resource career paths. To complement project activities, natural resource specialists from a variety of partner agencies and non-profit organizations were incorporated as daily guest presenters. With instruction and guidance provided by Lomakatsi's professional workforce trainers, these students accomplished 55 acres of fuels treatment, 15 acres of noxious weed management, 45 acres of prescribed burn preparation, and 2 miles of trail work.



Putting Fire to Work

Under Lomakatsi's guidance, forestry crews began burning brush piles this fall to consume fuels before next fire season.

Controlled burning will continue through the winter and early spring as conditions allow. While these piles are burned, plans to reintroduce fire to the ecosystem through underburning are being made for spring of 2014. During underburning fire is used across a contained area to both consume ground fuels and influence the future development of forests, restoring the role played by fire for thousands of years.



Volunteers Help Restore Habitat

Lomakatsi led SOU and local high school students in a volunteer event this fall spreading native grass seed and fertilizer near the White Rabbit trailhead. The area seeded was used as a helicopter landing and log loading site as part of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) during 2012 and 2013.

The Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

is a collaborative partnership established between the US Forest Service, the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy. Staff involved from other organizations include Southern Oregon University, Klamath Bird Observatory, Oregon State University Extension Service, The National Park Service, the Rogue Basin Small Diameter Collaborative, the USFS Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Research Stations, and local citizens